

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TANANA 00536 221539Z

51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6192

UNCLAS TANANARIVE 0536

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, MA

SUBJ: MALAGASY CHROME INDUSTRY

REF: STATE 080302

1. COMINA (COMPAGNIE MINIERE D'ANDRIAMENA) HAS EXCELLENT CREDIT STANDING. FIRM IS OWNED LARGELY BY LARGE FRENCH MINING GROUP OF PECHINEY-UGINE KUHLMANN WITH A 20PERCENT PARTICIPATION BY MALAGASY GOVERNMENT (GOMR). FIRM OPERATES MADAGASCAR'S ONLY CHROMITE MINE WHICH PRODUCES METALLURGICAL GRADE ORE, ALL OF WHICH IS PRESENTLY INTENDED FOR EXPORT. MINE OPENED IN 1970 FOLLOWING INITIAL INVESTMENTS FOR PLANT AND CONNECTING ROADS WHICH TOTALLED APPROXIMATELY \$13.5 MILLION. COMINA NOW OPERATING ON 567 SQUARE MILE CONCESSION AREA WHICH IS SAID TO CONTAIN ABOUT 30 SEPARATE DEPOSITS CONTAINING APPROX. 5 MILLION TONS OF EXPLOITABLE ORE. FIRM ALSO CONDUCTING PROSPECTING IN OTHER AREAS.

2. COMINA'S CHROMITE PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS (IN METRIC TONS):

	1972	1973
PRODUCTION	111,770	157,714
EXPORTS	94,782	97,780

3. COMINA AND GOMR HAVE PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FERRO-CHROME PLANT AT SOME TIME IN FUTURE. REALIZATION OF THIS PROJECT WILL DEPEND ON CONSTRUCTION OF LARGE (APPROX \$50-60 MILLION) HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT, FOR WHICH GOMR NOW ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN AID FROM WORLD BANK AND ONE OR TWO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

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PAGE 02 TANANA 00536 221539Z

MENDENHALL

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